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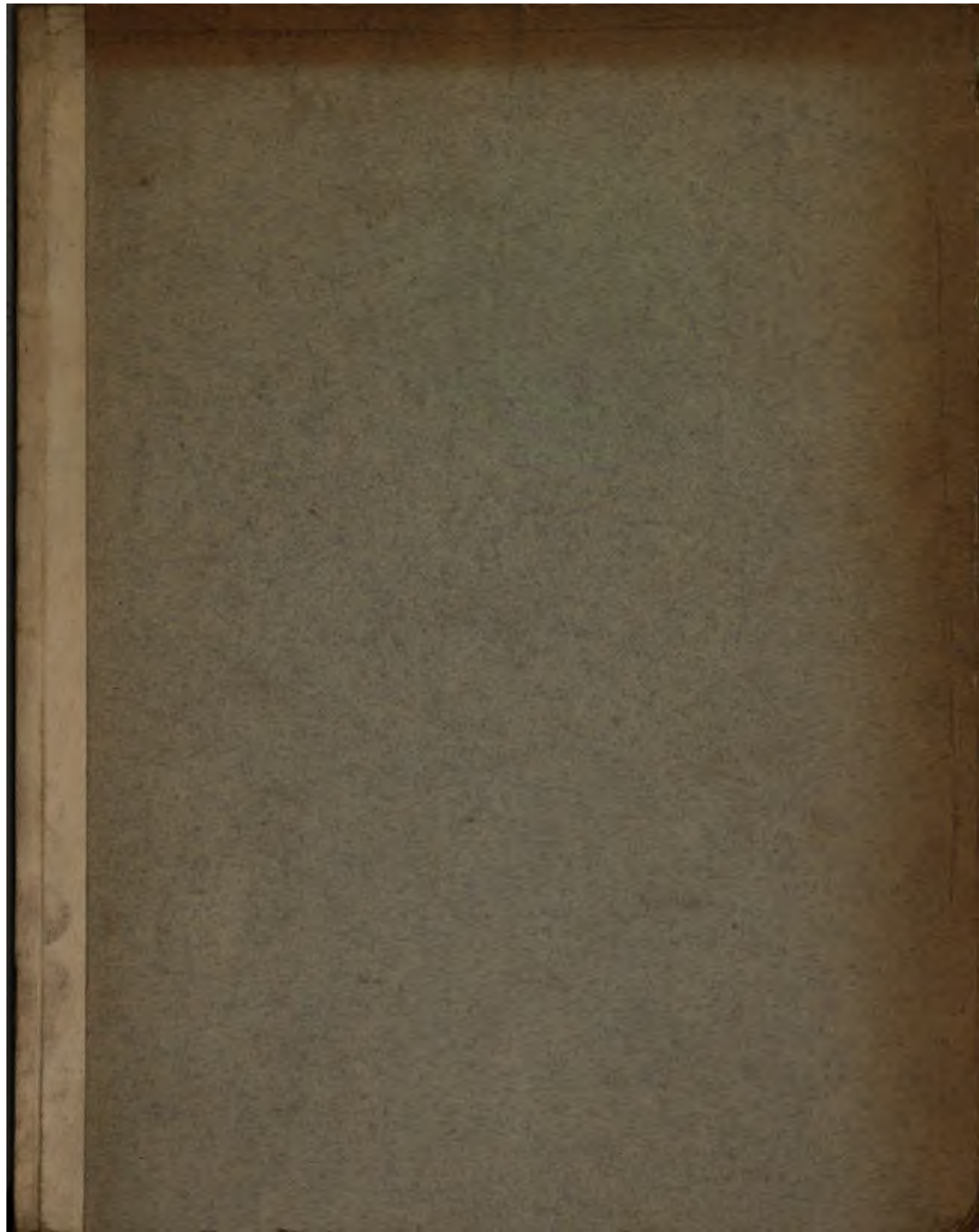
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THE BASIS
OF
MR. SAMUEL CROMPTON'S
CLAIMS
TO
A SECOND REMUNERATION FROM PARLIAMENT
FOR HIS DISCOVERY OF
THE MULE
SPINNING MACHINE.

*Reprinted verbatim from the original Pamphlet by Mr. J. Brown,
which appeared circa 1825.*

MANCHESTER :
PRINTED BY CHARLES SIMMS AND CO.
1868.

Between the years 1716 and 1720, the quantity of cotton wool imported into Great Britain, was

	2,173,287 lbs. weight.
From 1771 to 1775 ...	4,764,589 ditto.
„ 1776 to 1780 ...	6,706,013 ditto. ⁵

At this period, Mr. Crompton's *Mule*, or newly-invented spinning machine, was brought to perfection; and, on the promise of a pecuniary equivalent, was laid open to the public. The cotton imported from the year

1781 to 1785 amounted to	10,941,943 lbs.
From 1786 to 1790 . „	to 25,443,270 „
In 1791	„ to 28,706,675 „

Hence it appears, that in the course of the first ten years after the *Mule* was made over to the public, the increase in the importation of the raw article was two and twenty millions pounds! Whereas, during the preceding fourteen years, with the benefit of the *jenny* and the *water-frames*, the increase of importation was under *five millions of pounds*.

In 1790 '*the mule*' was introduced into factories; and about the same time, the *steam engine* began to be applied to turn the machinery.⁶

English twist began to be exported in small quantities in the year 1790.⁷

In 1816 was exported (cotton twist)	16,362,782 lbs.
1818 „ „ „	16,106,000 „
1819 „ „ „	19,662,000 „
1820 „ „ „	23,900,000 „
1822 „ „ „	28,000,000 „

⁵ Baines's *History and Directory of Lancashire*, and Parliamentary Reports.

⁶ *Vide* Guest's *History*, p. 33.

⁷ *Vide* Guest, p. 51. Probably a mistake of the author; the first entry on the Parliamentary Journals is dated 1794. — ED.

Thus, in the course of *forty years*, whatever may be thought of the wisdom of the measures of *taxing* the raw article, and exporting yarn *duty free*, to be wrought by our rivals in the cotton manufacture, the exportation of *mule yarn* exceeded in weight the raw article imported during the whole of *thirty years* prior to the application of that spinning machine.

The *Mule* (says Mr. Guest) *created a muslin* of home manufacture, unrivalled in beauty and quality: a muslin-weaver earned, on an average, upwards of thirty shillings per week.⁸

In opposition to the renewal of the East India Company's Charter, Mr. George A. Lee, of Manchester, cotton spinner, in a circular letter, dated 15th April, 1812, thus expressed himself:

The prominent and essential economy in the cotton manufacture, consists in the discoveries and improvements in spinning *within the last thirty years; especially for the finer fabrics, in consequence of Mr. CROMPTON's invention of the MULE*, and by the introduction of the *steam engine* upon Mr. Watt's principle.

In the year 1782, cotton twist (continues Mr. Lee) spun upon the *water-frame*, exceeded the cost of the raw article, *twenty shillings* per pound, for No. 60, thread! It now exceeds it (the price of the *raw article*), by the *Mule*, only one shilling and sixpence per pound; and, taking into consideration the depreciation of money, it cannot be estimated at less than a reduction (price) of from *twenty shillings to nine pence per pound*.

This astonishing proof of the powers of the *Mule*, demonstrates how greatly the public have been benefitted, and how penurious has been the remuneration granted to the inventor! In continuation of his comments, Mr. Lee proceeds to state:

⁸ *Vide* Guest, p. 32.

It is, therefore, *upon the basis of spinning*, that the great abridgment of labour, and the consequent *cheapness of the cotton manufacture*, have been founded. Very great discoveries and improvements have, doubtless, been made in *weaving, dyeing, printing, and bleaching*; but, taken in the gross, the amount will bear but an inferior proportion to that of spinning, and a *real capital* is vested in buildings and machinery of *eight to ten millions sterling*!

This was certainly as full and complete an acknowledgment of the consequence of the *Mule*, as its meritorious inventor could wish for.

In the Petition then, or in 1813, addressed to the House of Commons by the Merchants, Cotton Manufacturers, and Spinners of Manchester and its Vicinity, in the last paragraph but one it is affirmed, "*that a fixed capital of TEN MILLIONS STERLING is embarked in cotton mills alone.*"

It is remarkable that the estimate in the document sent up to Parliament from the principal spinners of Manchester, in 1812, states the amount of capital invested in *Mule spinning* at from *three to four millions sterling*; when it is capable of proof, by arithmetical demonstration, that *eleven twelfths* of all the capital invested in cotton mills was embarked upon the *Mule spinning* principle! In every vicissitude of the times, in peace and war, the progressive increase of the produce of the *Mule* has been such as to excite "the envy of surrounding nations, and the wonder of the government itself!" It must therefore be considered as a national reproach, that the inventor of this engine should remain in obscurity—a *spectator* of the splendid fruits of his powerful genius, rather than a partaker.

In 1825, at the expiration of forty-five years, the importation of raw cotton, upon an average of the last seven years, amounted to 145,000,000 lbs.⁹

⁹ *Vide Baines's History and Directory.*

The value of cotton, manufactured and consumed at home, would probably be underrated at twenty millions sterling, per annum.¹⁰

On the 8th March, 1824, amidst the cheers of the House of Commons, the President of the Board of Trade announced that the annual value of cotton goods, manufactured in Great Britain, amounted to *thirty-five millions, three hundred and thirty-seven thousand, six hundred pounds*.¹¹

In 1825, the same Right Honourable gentleman stated, that the export of manufactured cottons exceeded *thirty million pounds sterling in value*!¹²

At the same time this gentleman said :

In the cotton manufacture we exceed all our rivals, be they who they may, both in *quality* and *price* at which we send our goods to market.¹³

Can any one reasonably doubt but the *Mule* laid the foundation of this stupendous statement of the extent of the British cotton manufacture ?

But the triumph of the *Mule* has not yet reached its greatest splendour. Mr. Huskisson, in the course of this speech, said :

We have under our protection an immense country, in which cotton is the staple article of growth, in which the manufacture of it has been the most ancient, — the East Indies ! From that country we long were furnished with our principal supply of muslins and calicoes, and various other articles into which cotton is manufactured. *We now send there annually, to the amount of millions, COTTON GOODS manufactured in Great Britain, and returned with the charges of freight, and all the expences incidental to such commerce* !¹⁴

By Mr. Guest, the author of the *Compendious*

¹⁰ Vide Baines's *History and Directory*.

¹¹ *Idem*.

¹² *Bolton Express and Chronicle*, March 1825.

¹³ *Idem*.

¹⁴ *Idem*.

History of the Cotton Manufacture, this astonishing result of Mr. Crompton's genius and science is stigmatized as "*a calamity to the nation*."¹⁵ He (the author) has indeed effectually disproved the claims of Sir Richard Arkwright to the *invention* of the *water-frame*; but he has displayed the most illiberal spirit towards Mr. Crompton, whose neighbour he was, and of whose transcendent merit he seemed unconscious, or resolutely bent not to recognise. Mr. Guest resided at Leigh, a town, or large village, between Bolton and Wigan; his work was printed in 1823, yet so little has he said about Mr. Crompton, that even the grant of 5000*l.* in 1812 is not once mentioned. In the evidence of Sir Robert Peel, bart., and others, according to the Reports of Committees in 1816 and 1818, the same marked neglect of Mr. Crompton is exhibited, and praise bestowed upon Mr. Arkwright which he evidently did not deserve.

Mr. Baines, in his *History and Directory of Lancashire*, acted with greater impartiality; he proclaimed the merits and the *indigence* of Mr. Crompton — wounding his feelings whilst he displayed his merits. His description of the indigence of this neglected man was inserted in his first volume. In his second, which treats of Manchester, he gives the following estimate:

Taking the price of this (cotton) wool at one shilling per pound, and the increase in value by manufacture, at five times the value of the raw article, the account will stand thus:

120,000,000 lbs. of cotton at 1 <i>s.</i> ...	£6,000,000
Increased by manufacture	30,000,000
Gross amount	£36,000,000

¹⁵ *Vide Guest's History.*

It is, perhaps, capable of proof,¹⁶ that the *Mule* produces eleven-twelfths weight of all the cotton goods manufactured in Great Britain.

Its proportion as to *value* is probably still larger. No machine, save the *Mule*, is *capable* of producing *fine yarn*, fit for the production of the finest cotton fabrics.¹⁷ The manufacture of *cotton lace* is wholly dependent upon the *Mule*. The highest numbers spun have fetched a price nearly as high as gold.¹⁸ The value of the raw article is about two shillings and sixpence per pound.¹⁹ The return derived from the lace machinery at work at Nottingham, in 1824, according to the *Reports* of the Select Committee, and Mr. White's *Digest*,²⁰ is estimated at upwards of seven hundred thousand pounds sterling.²¹ This delicate and beautiful fabric has been exported to China, and it is by no means improbable but in time it may equal the British muslin trade in value. Thus, as well as the muslin trade in all its rich varieties and luxuriant beauties, the *Mule* has proved the parent of another manufacture, formerly wholly unknown, which, though at present eclipsed, will, no doubt, shortly revive and flourish.

It would be a work of difficulty to form a correct estimate of the amount of duty upon raw cotton spun upon the *Mule*, since its invention in 1779. In 1812, it was estimated in one document, prepared by the master cotton-spinners of Manchester to be laid before Parliament, in support of Mr. Crompton's claims to a national remuneration, at

¹⁶ *Vide* Parliamentary Report on Mr. Crompton's Petition, 1812, p. 4.

¹⁷ *Idem*, p. 3.

¹⁸ *Vide* Report of Select Committee, Artisans and Mechanics, 1824. Evidence of Mr. William Shoult and Mr. John Greenwood.

¹⁹ *Idem*.

²⁰ *Vide* Mr. White's *Digest of the Minutes of Evidence*, p. 300.

²¹ *Idem*, p. 301.

half a million annually. In the report upon Mr. Crompton's petition, it was computed at three hundred and fifty thousand pounds.²² A remuneration of *two and a half per cent.* upon the revenue accruing from raw cotton spun into yarn upon the *Mule*, would amount to *four hundred thousand pounds!* Two and a half per cent. on the proceeds of the direct revenue derived from this source, in the year in which *five thousand pounds* was awarded to Mr. Crompton (1812), would have produced *seven thousand, seven hundred, and fifty pounds!*²³

The parsimonious spirit which adjudged so trifling a remuneration for so important a discovery, was noticed at the time in Parliament.²⁴ Its inadequacy was felt severely by Mr. Crompton, and lamented by his friends and well-wishers. He had five grown-up sons. To settle them in life, in 1813, Mr. Crompton engaged in a more extensive trade, and proved unfortunate. He paid every one; but lost his capital, and gradually sunk into a state of indigence, which he fain would, but could not, conceal; and it was blazoned to the world by the publisher alluded to. Although it is a delicate subject to touch upon, yet justice to Mr. Crompton requires that the truth should not be concealed. The smallness of the grant of 1812, in comparison with what had been anticipated, not alone by his family and friends, but by public men of all parties, both in the metropolis, and the country, where the importance of the *Mule* was best understood, excited amazement in the minds of many. By his family it was imputed to a want of *energy* whilst Mr.

²² *Vide* Report on Mr. Crompton's Petition, 1812, p. 2.

²³ This was the rate at which Mr. Palmer's claims were estimated.

²⁴ By the Earl of Lauderdale, in reference to Mr. Palmer's claims, in 1812.

Crompton was in London. Be it as it might, the result was the ruin of a previously industrious and united family. In Mr. Crompton's letters to the then Chancellor of the Exchequer,²⁵ he constantly expressed his wish to have either a reward of such a magnitude as to do honour to the nation and to himself, or permission to return to Bolton. He shrunk from a small reward, as if his mind had foreboded the sad result which ensued. With a frankness very unusual in supplicants, he said to the Right Hon. Mr. Perceval, and the administration of that day: "*Do not dishonour yourselves; me you cannot.*" — He returned home to Bolton, with a *national reward*, and almost broken hearted!

Yet, Mr. Crompton never censured the ministers, nor uttered a word of complaint; nor was it 'till after the speech of the Right Hon. Mr. Huskisson relative to the cotton trade of Great Britain, in March, 1825, and the *additional grant* made to Mr. Mac Adam, that Mr. Crompton consented to a second application being made by his friends, on his behalf, to government.

Though modest and diffident, he was *always conscious of the importance of his invention*, though not of the enormous extent to which it has since been carried. Neither in 1780, nor at any subsequent period, did he *originate* any appeals to individuals, or corporate bodies. His wants were few, because his habits were frugal. When, in May 1825, it was understood that Mr. Crompton was willing that a *second* application should be ventured upon (in consequence of the *inadequacy* of the remuneration of 1812, and the magnitude of the *increased* value of his discovery), he did not wait upon any individual, or use any kind of inducement to put their kind

²⁵ *Vide* Illustration (I).

intentions in motion. So much is Mr. Crompton respected, that when the second (or third) grant to Mr. Mac Adam was announced by the London press, unknown to Mr. Crompton a public meeting was proposed to be convened at Bolton, to sanction an application in his behalf. Knowing his unaffected modesty, and judging it would be more likely to promote the end in view, to transmit memorials, I proposed that mode to some of the wealthiest and most respectable manufacturers; and, without any hesitation, it was carried into execution, and signed by all the principal machine-makers, engineers, and manufacturers then in Bolton. In return for this valuable mark of respect from his neighbours and townsmen, Mr. Crompton desired the application for signatures might be *confined to Bolton*, or, no doubt but the measure would have had the support of a vast accession of the most influential names concerned in the cotton trade in Great Britain, as was the case in 1812.

The humble condition of life in which Mr. Crompton stood when he perfected the invention of the *Mule*, has been too much dwelt upon. The rank in life held by himself and his ancestors, for centuries past, at Firwood, near Bolton, was precisely on a level with that of the Peels of Brookbottom or Church Bank, namely, above poverty, and as much below wealth; the hereditary occupiers of lands held on lease for lives, — devoting their spare hours from field labour to spinning cotton by hand on a single spindle, and weaving the web they spun, or selling it to cotton manufacturers.

It was not, as it should have been, stated in 1812, that, after Mr. Crompton had surrendered his invention to the public, upon the assurance of a reward proportioned to its value (and which promise proved

wholly illusive), he had not the same chance of acquiring wealth as those by whom he had been duped ; for, as the use of the *Mule* increased, spinners were wanting. As fast as Mr. Crompton instructed them, *his pupils* being esteemed as the *most valuable*, they were decoyed from him by other masters, or commenced as master-spinners upon their own capital ; and this course continued, and prevented Mr. Crompton from deriving any further advantage from the *Mule* than what the labour of his sons and relatives supplied !

By means not understood by Mr. Crompton, the nobleman, who in 1812 introduced to the House of Commons the *Report* of the Committee which had decided upon Mr. Crompton's petition, stated, that his condition of life was so depressed, having no other means of subsistence than his daily labour as a common manufacturer, that he was not able to bring into action those *alterations* and *improvements* with which his mind was so deeply impressed.²⁶ Whoever impressed the nobleman in question, whose kind intentions towards Mr. Crompton could not be and are not doubted, with these ideas, he was in error. '*The Mule*' was quite complete in 1780 ; nor was Mr. Crompton's state so depressed as this description indicated. The evidence of Mr. Pilkington²⁷ fully proves that Mr. Crompton, upon the faith of an *agreement* with the principal manufacturers of Lancashire that a subscription should be raised equal to its value, surrendered his discovery to the public. Mr. Pilkington also admits that the

²⁶ *Vide* Hansard's Debates, 24th June, 1812, and Extracts from original Documents, supplied by Mr. Samuel Crompton, in the Illustrations appended.

²⁷ *Vide* Report of the Committee of the House of Commons, 1812, pp. 1 and 2. Evidence of Mr. Pilkington.

application *originated* with himself and other manufacturers, and not with Mr. Crompton, who became its victim.

In the same document, Mr. G. A. Lee, a wealthy cotton-spinner of Manchester, stated that in 1801 an attempt was made by a number of gentlemen, who *thought Mr. Crompton had been neglected*, to raise a subscription, *which failed*; and that this attempt was also *spontaneous* on their part, "arising entirely from a sense of Mr. Crompton's just claims upon the public."²⁸

If Mr. Crompton had been a man of the same stamp as Sir Richard Arkwright, he would probably never have *invented* the MULE; but *if* he had possessed the same keenness and avidity for acquiring riches, it is difficult to fix a limit to the wealth he might have acquired, even from this surrender of his invention. It is evident that Mr. Arkwright was an *impostor* in so far as regarded the *invention* of the machine to which he laid claim, and for which he obtained a patent; consequently, he durst not apply to Parliament for a reward beyond the overflow of wealth which that patent, however obtained, had produced him. No one has ever attempted to *question* the *originality* of Mr. Crompton's invention. His letters, written many years since, evince the painful study²⁹ and laborious exertions it cost him; and which Sir Richard Arkwright fallaciously urged in his petition, in 1783, for an extension of his expiring patent, whose prior exactions excited general complaint.³⁰ — Mr. Crompton was aware of the danger of *popular violence* resulting from the introduction of new machinery: he was in a manner

²⁸ *Vide* Report of the Committee of the House of Commons, 1812. Evidence of Mr. G. A. Lee, of Manchester.

²⁹ *Vide* Illustrations, appended. ³⁰ *Idem*.

besieged in his dwelling by weavers and spinners, pressing for a sight of the wonderful yarn produced by his new machine, and was so annoyed by their importunities,³¹ and alarmed by their earnestness, that, upon being applied to by the richest manufacturers of the day, (being assured of a reward proportionate to its value,) in the language of Mr. Duckworth³² "*he gave up the substance for a shadow;*" but he gave it up to the nation! and upon the honour and *justice* of the *nation*, assembled in Parliament, the fulfilment of this contract has devolved.

There was no kind of indirection or chicanery in Mr. Crompton's conduct in any part of his proceedings. It may be truly said, he stands before the country with clean hands and a clear conscience. He surrendered his invention, apprised of its immense value, confiding in the honour of his wealthy neighbours. Those "*men of the world*" cruelly betrayed the confidence he reposed; but the nation that was enriched by his sacrifice is bound, by every thing sacred in equity, to make good their bankruptcy in faith and honour!—Admitting, instead of 106*l.* (being the total amount of what was collected), the manufacturers had, in 1780, subscribed five thousand pounds, where is the man worthy the name of a statesman to be found, who, contemplating the magnitude of its future benefits to the nation, would have objected to Mr. Crompton's claims, in 1812, to a *further* reward? So prodigious has been the subsequent increase of benefits since 1812, that the strength of his claims, and the mass of national wealth acquired through his means, seem to proceed almost in geometrical progression. According to the evidence of Mr. George Augustus

³¹ *Vide* Illustrations, appended.

³² *Idem.*

Lee,³³ who, in 1812, acted in the name of the wealthiest cotton-spinners of Manchester, the capital then invested in factories and machinery carrying on *Mule-spinning* was about *four millions* sterling; the weight of yarn spun, above forty million pounds.

In the course of the next *six* years, namely, in 1818, by the evidence of Alexander Buchanan, esq., on behalf of the master cotton-spinners (standing in opposition to Sir Robert Peel's Bill), when examined on oath before the Committee of Lords, stated, that the amount of capital then invested in factories, machinery, &c., was between *eleven* and *twelve* millions sterling.³⁴ It is allowed on all sides that the *Mule* employs the great bulk of this capital; consequently, it had been doubled in amount in the course of six years; and the same authority estimated the weight of cotton imported that year at 120,000,000 pounds: hence it results, that at least eighty million pounds were spun upon the *Mule*. Thus the progressive increase in invested capital, and in the amount of yarn produced, was equal.

In 1825, it was computed by men of experience, that the capital invested in *Mule factories* and *Mule-spinning*, in Lancashire alone, was equal in amount to four-fifths of that of the United Kingdom. This may be an over-statement, but Baines's recent publication countenances the estimate. In many towns and villages the increase of building and machinery has been so vast as to double the capital invested in two, three, or, at farthest, four years. The number of spindles in 1817,³⁵ in Lancashire only, was 6,645,800.

³³ *Vide* Report on Mr. Crompton's Petition.

³⁴ *Vide* Report of the Committee of the House of Lords, 1818, p. 63, on Sir Robert Peel's Bill.

³⁵ *Vide* Baines's *History and Directory*.

A marked affinity exists between the claims of Dr. Jenner³⁶ and Mr. Crompton. That eminent physician could not act more wisely than in giving up his discovery to the public; nor, under the circumstances of recent local commotions, could Mr. Crompton. Doctor Jenner is stated to have lost his private practice at Gloucester and Cheltenham by giving up his time to make his invention known to the public. Mr. Crompton lost the best years of his life in similar exertions.

There was scarcely a sentence uttered in Parliament, in 1807, in defence of the second grant in favour of Doctor Jenner, which might not, with equal aptitude or precision, be applied to Mr. Crompton's claim to a second remuneration at the present day.

Having thus established, by the best attainable evidence, first, the utter incompetency of the grant of 1812; and, secondly, the prodigious increase of the wealth produced by the *Mule* since that period; the next step is to bring under review, the occasions on which Parliament have made additional grants to individuals who have complained that the first was not sufficiently liberal; or, on the ground of a subsequent increase in the value of the benefit conferred, or of the article sold, which was not calculated upon when the transactions took place.

The first analogous case is that already quoted in this statement, relative to Doctor Jenner.³⁷ That

³⁶ *Vide* Hansard's Parliamentary Debates, 1807.

³⁷ Doctor Jenner's was NOT a new discovery. At the hamlet called Ascot, in the parish of Shipton-under-Whichwood, lived a family named Townsend, who held land of the Duke of Marlborough; one of whom, *sixty years* since, remarking that those of his servants who had eruptions on their fingers from milking the cows, never caught the small pox, as a preventive remedy purposely took the infection, and always escaped the natural disease, however brief it was. In

gentleman gave up his invention (of Vaccination) to the public, on the reliance of being rewarded according to its success. For this, in 1802, a grant of ten thousand pounds was awarded him. In 1807, after an interval of five years, a *second grant*, of twenty thousand pounds, was likewise, and most deservedly, awarded to him by Parliament.

In allusion to Doctor Jenner's having made a free offering of his discovery to the welfare of society, Mr. Wilberforce said :

If Doctor Jenner had acted thus generously, and thrown himself on the liberality of the public, he ought to be rewarded.³⁸

It is fully proved that Mr. Crompton acted on this principle — surrendered his newly-discovered engine on this very principle, and, consequently, has the same claim to national remuneration.

He, Mr. Jenner, by divulging this discovery in the most extensive way, lost his practice at Gloucester and at Cheltenham.³⁹ Mr. Crompton lost an opportunity of realizing a princely fortune by listening to the applications made to him by the richest men in Lancashire, by whom he was shamefully deceived and over-reached. He lost his time in teaching hired servants how to spin upon the *Mule*. Upon whatever conditions he engaged those servants, by whatever pledge or tie he strove to secure their fidelity, the wealthy manufacturers, by whom he had been over-reached, after having fraudulently obtained his se-

1810 this family, though reduced, still remained at Ascot, and at Milton, an adjoining village. But, allowing that the invention was not *new*, still, to Doctor Jenner the merit of bringing it into practice unquestionably belonged, and he merited all that he obtained.

³⁸ *Vide* Hansard's Debates, 1807. ³⁹ *Idem* 1807.

cret, seduced those servants from him. The effect of this dirty practice was to distress and dishearten him to that degree as to reduce him to a state such as he described, either *to destroy his machine*, or to listen to the proposals made to him ; and he wisely adopted the latter course. Consequently, Mr. Crompton's claim to a further and more munificent remuneration, assuredly rests on the basis of MORAL and POLITICAL JUSTICE.

The Right Hon. Mr. Vansittart (Lord Bexley) said :

When the committee considered the advantages which had *already* resulted from it, and *that would in future* result from it. he was sure the committee would not consider the proposition he meant to make extravagant, but liberal and just to the individual.⁴⁰

The very same words apply, with matchless precision, to the claims of Mr. Crompton for a second remuneration from Parliament.

There are several cases⁴¹ in which Parliament awarded second grants, the most recent of which is that in favour of Mr. Mac Adam ; but none apply with stronger analogy than Dr. Jenner's.

In the discussions of the well-known claim, advanced on the score of services rendered to the revenue of the General Post-office by Mr. Palmer, a much more liberal spirit prevailed than has yet been shown towards Mr. Crompton. Without assuming that the services of Mr. Palmer were profusely remunerated, yet, in reference to the parsimony displayed in Mr. Crompton's case, the Earl of Lauderdale's speech⁴² is here quoted :

⁴⁰ *Vide* Hansard's Parliamentary Debates, 1807.

⁴¹ Journals of the House ; Reports of Committee.

⁴² *Vide* Hansard's Debates, 1812.

The House of Commons must have passed this bill from an idea that there was an agreement to give Mr. Palmer the sum of 78,000*l.*, which there was not. They would never otherwise have been so lavish, when they were so *very economical* to the inventor of the machine called the *Mule*, which had proved of such vast advantage to the country and the revenue. The Commons had only given Mr. Crompton 5,000*l.*, though he considered Mr. Palmer's plan *as nothing in comparison with Mr. Crompton's invention*.⁴³

Lord Holland, who spoke on that occasion, said he was disposed to think that Mr. Palmer's claim had been mistaken, when considered as arising out of any written agreement ; whereas it clearly appeared to him, *a claim upon the honour and justice of the country*.

The Earl of Moira observed, that this claim rested, not upon any written agreement, *but upon an agreement implied, and upon the honour and justice of the country*.

Upon the HONOUR, the JUSTICE, and SYMPATHY of the country, the claims of Mr. Crompton depend. He has no powerful patrons, no parliamentary friends to act as HIS advocate. It cannot, however, be considered as any disparagement to the merits of Mr. Palmer's claims, to have it said that they were as "*nothing*" in value in comparison with those of Mr. Crompton, if it be also considered that the latter furnished his native land with an

⁴³ The Earl of Carnarvon, in reply to Lord Lauderdale, said : "As to Mr. Crompton's invention, in regard to spinning *muslin*, (yarn to make muslin,) which has been quoted by the noble lord, it bore no analogy to the present case ; it was the *mere* invention of a machine, which had *been amply rewarded ! !*" It would be invidious to impute any hostile feeling towards Mr. Crompton to the noble earl ; it was probably spoken on the spur of the moment, and from too strong a reliance on parliamentary justice.

invention which proved the great and leading instrument in creating a cotton manufacture to the amount of nearly FORTY MILLIONS sterling per annum ; and were that single invention wholly withdrawn, this vast trade would disappear ; as no subsequent discovery, at home or abroad, is capable of supplying the place of the MULE !

More honoured by enlightened foreigners than by his own countrymen, Mr. Crompton, at different periods of his life, has been visited and solicited by agents from France, Austria, and Switzerland, and tempted by flattering invitations to remove from a country which they described as insensible to his deserts, and unworthy of his esteem. Though depressed and neglected, Mr. Crompton did not accept their invitation. More recently, other foreigners of distinction, who visited the cotton works of Lancashire, hearing of the penury by which this worthy man was overwhelmed, in a delicate and respectful manner offered him very liberal pecuniary aid. From other authentic sources, I have learned that hints were thrown out, that if Mr. Crompton would consent, there were foreigners, more alive to his deserts than his own country, who would apply to their respective governments in his behalf. All these friendly and flattering offers were modestly declined. He is now arrived at a very advanced age ; his health more impaired by corrosive care and mental sorrow, than by infirmities incidental to old age.

To cheer the last remnant of life it may please the Almighty to allot to this deserving character—to enable him to make a suitable provision for his children and grandchildren—to remove from the national character that reproach which will become indelible, should he, whose science and genius has

enriched his country, be allowed to descend in a state of penury to the grave : at all events, to do justice to his talents and virtues, this summary of Mr. Crompton's very extraordinary case is most respectfully and earnestly submitted to MINISTERS and PARLIAMENT.

J. BROWN.

January 31st, 1826.

ILLUSTRATIONS.

ILLUSTRATION (A).

*Extracts of a Letter addressed to Sir Joseph Banks, bart.,
30th October, 1807.*

"I DOUBT," said Mr. Crompton to the baronet, "if you can form any adequate idea of the situation my mind and body was in, after so long and intense application of all their powers, the ardour of which nothing could stop, till I had attained what I expected would be the end of all my labours. Alas! how was I deceived! I found, to my sorrow, I was not calculated to contend with *the men of the world*; neither did I know there was such a thing as *protection* for me on earth! I found I was as unfit for the task that was before me as a child of two years old to contend with a disciplined army! I was *reduced* to this dilemma, either to destroy the machine altogether (the *Mule*), or to give it up to the use of the public. If I chose the latter, I was loaded with abundance of fair promises which the *men of the world* of that day made me believe they would fulfil, by way of *subscription*. At last I consented, in hope of a *generous* and *liberal* subscription. The consequence was, that, from many subscribers, who would not pay the sum they had set opposite their names, when I applied to them for it,

I got nothing but *abusive language*,¹ given to me to drive me from them, which was easily done; for I never *till then* could think it possible that any man (in such situation of life and circumstances) could pretend one thing, and act the opposite. I *then* found it was *possible*, having had proof positive."

"I received as much by way of subscription," continued Mr. Crompton, "as built me a new machine, with only four spindles more than the one I had given up, the old one having 48 spindles, the new one 52 spindles.² What is no less extraordinary than true is, that all the powers of the men of genius who have had to do with my first spinning frame, have not been able to make the smallest improvement, the *principle* remaining the same; and the extent of its use, as well as its profit *to others*, has exceeded all hopes and expectations, even the most extravagant."

"And yet, after all that has been said, there remains an evil, not named, of greater magnitude than the foregoing; which if it could have been prevented, I *could have acquired as great and princely a fortune as ever was acquired in trade*; for, after having given up my first machine, others as well as myself having got a number of machines made, they were always endeavouring to *entice* from me those spinners I had in my employ; so that, on whatever condition I engaged them, they were made discontented, and I was forced to be constantly teaching new hands, or employ none."

"If you invert the question and ask, if the *Mule* were to be annihilated, or wholly withdrawn, and never more to be used in this country, I ask, how would the cotton

¹ *Alexander Kay*, of Blackburn, manufacturer, was one of the *men of the world* who treated Mr. Crompton thus infamously; calling him an *impostor*, and asking him how he *dared* to come on such an errand, even after Mr. Crompton had exhibited his own signature, promising to pay 1*l.* 1*s.* as his quota of the promised reward!

² This means that the money subscribed merely *replaced* the machine he gave up. *The SECRET was made public*, and for that, and all his toil and study and loss of time, he had not a shilling by way of recompense.

manufacture of this country be affected thereby, and to what extent?³

"I fear the length of my story will quite tire your patience, and that you are wishing it was ended. I can truly say, it is the first time I ever imposed the task upon myself to unbosom my mind to any person on earth; though *how* to get it introduced to his MAJESTY, and, at the same time, whether my diction might not give offence, I know not; for it is wholly of my own scribbling. But, at the same time, if I had a friend on earth who could introduce it to his MAJESTY and his ministers in a proper manner, *I certainly* would apply to him to introduce it: and if they (the King and his ministers) in council, should determine that my story was frivolous, I will submit, and name it no more. But, surely, either they or some other *KIND* friend will point out the way I ought to pursue in my present case."⁴

The first notice taken of this interesting letter was on the 28th of March, 1811, and, not by Sir Joseph Banks, but Doctor Charles Taylor, M.D., secretary to the Society of Arts; who, without explaining how the letter came into his hands, or why an answer had been so long deferred, informed the writer that the Society of Arts had nothing to do with the subject. Mr. Crompton, justly surprised by such a letter, and perhaps hurt at the neglect shown by the baronet, said, in a reply dated the 28th:

³ At the present hour, if the *Mule* could be withdrawn, it would reduce the cotton manufacture of Great Britain very nearly to the same condition it was in when the *Mule* was invented. As far as the cotton trade is concerned, the extinction of *steam power* would be of comparatively insignificant consequence.

⁴ It reflects no great credit on the memory of Sir Joseph Banks that he did not reply to this letter at all, nor ever acknowledge its receipt. *Three years* after it had been written, it was answered by Dr. Charles Taylor, secretary to the Society of Arts. If Sir Joseph Banks had acquainted the late king of the appeal made by so useful a subject, it is more than probable Mr. Crompton would have found a friend and patron in his sovereign.

"The letter you refer to, was written to Sir Joseph Banks, who, though he be President of the Society of Arts, I flattered myself that he was a *gentleman* and a *Christian*. I compelled myself to write an account of my situation in life, and how the '*men of the world*' had treated me ; at the same time requesting him to inform me if he knew any mode of preventing imposition for the future, and obtaining remuneration for the past. As to the statement transmitted, it contains facts that all the world cannot deny—nor any part of those facts : and I gave him (Sir Joseph Banks) an opportunity, if he chose to embrace it, to afford me that assistance ; he had it in his power to mention me to the GREAT MEN of the nation, whose business it is to watch over the welfare of all. *The United Kingdoms have reaped the benefit of my labours to an extent past belief to those who are unacquainted with it,* and I ask you, to WHOM should I apply for a REMUNERATION for my labours but to those who have reaped the benefit of them ?"

It was natural Mr. Crompton should feel hurt at the conduct pursued towards him, and his reply seems to have put Dr. Taylor upon his mettle ; for on the 29th he wrote as follows :

"Your former letter was sent here by Sir Joseph Banks as a matter which he thought *neither concerned him nor the Society of Arts*. The funds of our society are small, and supported by private subscription only : we cannot afford to give large rewards."

The draft copy of Mr. Crompton's letter does not contain a syllable about any application to the Society of Arts, nor for any reward, honorary or pecuniary ; but, as the preceding extracts show, merely a request to Sir Joseph Banks "to mention Mr. Crompton's case to the KING and MINISTERS." And it would have reflected as much honour upon Sir Joseph Banks's urbanity if he had done so, as to adopt the course he did. It appears by

the close of this letter, it was an act of personal civility in Doctor Taylor that *any notice* was taken of Mr. Crompton's letter, or that it was entered in the minutes of the society to show posterity that Mr. Crompton claimed the invention of the *Mule*.

Doctor Aikin, the present secretary, examined the minutes, and in the volume for 1811 pointed out the following entry:

*Extract from the Minute Book of the
Society of Arts, 1811.*

"Took into consideration a reference to this committee of the 11th November, 1807, on improvements in Spinning and Weaving.

"Read a letter from Mr. Samuel Crompton, dated Bolton, November 5, 1807, stating that he had taken great pains to improve the cotton manufactures, and that he is the inventor of the spinning machines called *Mules*, which he first commenced at a house called Hall o' th' Wood, near Bolton, about twenty-six years ago, and from which machine all the present machines for spinning, under that name, are formed: that he has since invented some great improvements in weaving, but that all his inventions have been pirated from him, and carried on by other persons; and he therefore wishes that some recompense, either pecuniary or honorary, may be made to him for the great pains he has taken, and the advantages the public have received from him.

"Resolved: It appears to this committee, on the perusal of Mr. Crompton's letter, addressed to the Society of Arts, that its object does not come within the views of this society, and they therefore recommend that it *be laid aside*."

The letter had been "*laid aside*" four years, and *where* it was laid in 1811 does not appear. There is something very mysterious in the whole affair. Doctor Taylor never once mentioned Sir Joseph Banks till Mr. Crompton

had referred to him as the person to whom he had transmitted the letter, to which, at the end of nearly *four* years, Doctor Taylor had replied. Mr. Crompton, having been *defrauded* of the *Mule*, and next, greatly disturbed in a subsequent invention, writes to Sir Joseph Banks in a style which clearly enough showed he was greatly in need of a friend to make his case known to the KING and MINISTERS of State. Doctor Taylor's letter tells Mr. Crompton to go to Lord Stanley and Mr. Blackburne, the county members! At this very time Lord Stanley and Mr. Blackburne were corresponding with Mr. Crompton; and it is not very unlikely but the answer would have been deferred to a still later period, if the *intended* application to Parliament had not excited apprehension, which *produced* the tardy notice commented upon.

The visit to the archives of the Society of Arts was not, however, unavailing. Doctor Aikin, kindly referring to the society's minutes, showed that as early as 1763 the society had turned its attention to the improvement of the art of cotton-spinning, and pointed out the following minutes as proofs of their patriotic vigilance:

Extracts: Printed "Minutes of Committees,"
1762, 1763, p. 112.

"The society having been informed that our manufacturers of woollen, linen and *cotton* find it exceedingly difficult, when the spinners are out at harvest work, to procure a sufficient number of hands to keep their weavers, &c. employed; and that, for want of proper dispatch in this branch of our manufacture, the merchants' orders for all sorts of piece goods are often greatly retarded, to the prejudice of the manufacturer, merchant, and nation in general. The society therefore concluded that an improvement of the spinning-wheel would be an object worthy of their notice. Accordingly they published the following advertisement, *March 16, 1761*: 'For the best invention of a machine that will spin six threads of wool,

flax, hemp, or *cotton* at one time, and that will require but one person to work and attend it ; (cheapness and simplicity in the construction will be considered as part of its merit :) for the best, fifty pounds ; for the second-best, twenty-five pounds.'

" In consequence of these premiums several ingenious improvements have been made to the spinning-wheel ; but as none of them effectually answered the purpose intended, the premiums were continued, and a machine for spinning six threads was produced by Mr. GEORGE BUCKLEY, and examined by the Committee of Manufacturers, February 28, 1763."

Strand, February 28, 1763.

MS. Minutes, 1762, 1763. Minutes of the reward to Mr. G. Buckley. Description of Mr. Perren's wheel, p. 114, printed Minutes ; and of Mr. Harrison's, p. 118, ditto.

Mr. Harrison is supposed to have been a native of Lancashire.

ILLUSTRATION (B).

OF MR. CROMPTON'S CLAIMS, EXTRACTED FROM HIS OWN PRIVATE LETTERS AND MEMORANDA, 1826.

Extract (b) from a MS. document circulated by Mr. Crompton about the year 1809 or 1810.

"The next five years had this addition added to my labour as a weaver, occasioned by the *imperfect* state of cotton-spinning, viz., a continual endeavour to realise a more perfect principle of spinning. And though often baffled, I as often renewed the attempt, and at length succeeded to my utmost desire, at the expense of every shilling I had in the world. During this time I married, at the age of twenty-six years, and commenced spinner altogether. But a few months reduced me to the cruel necessity either of destroying my machine altogether, or

giving it up to the public. To destroy it I could not think of; to give up that for which I had laboured so long was cruel. I had no patent, nor the means of purchasing one. In preference to destroying I gave it up to the public. The *principle* of this machine was so foreign to any other method of spinning hitherto known, that it was attended with some difficulty at first, not only from the newness of the principle, but also from the desire of *improving* it, which all the art of man has not been able to accomplish. And though I pushed on, intending to have a good share in the spinning line, yet I found there was an evil which I had not foreseen, and of much greater magnitude than giving up the machine, viz., that I must be always teaching green hands, employ none, or quit the country; it being believed that, if I taught them, they knew their business well. So that *for years* I had no choice left but to give up spinning, or quit my native land. I cut up my spinning machines for other purposes. After this my wife died, and left me eight small children. Of late years we began to spin again, to employ my own family and a few more hands. But to this day, though it is more than thirty years since my first machine was shown to the public, I am hunted and watched with as much never-ceasing care as if I was the most notorious villain that ever disgraced the human form; and do affirm, that if I were to go to a smithy to get a common nail made, if opportunity offered to the by-standers, they would examine it most minutely, to see if it was any thing but a nail."

"I always supposed that every person in these realms was protected in his person and property by the laws thereof. But I hesitate not to say, that if I had given fifty thousand pounds for the undisturbed use and enjoyment of what I had laboured for, that sum would not have been a *tythe of its value when it was first shown to the public*; and, though it must be confessed that it never could have been carried to so great an extent by a single individual as it has been, to the benefit of

the nation, yet, does it follow that I am to have no share of the profits arising from the invention? I must say this, that the men of the country have pushed it on to an extent far beyond what I had formed any conception of; and I have been at considerable pains and expense to ascertain what share the *Mule* machine has in the spinning of cotton, woollen and silk in this country. But I almost despair of ever being able to ascertain it with any degree of certainty. What I have already done is: Mule and Billy spindles, upwards of 4,600,000; Jenny ditto, 155,880; Water-frame and throstles, 310,516; but the account being imperfect, it is yet uncertain how the proportion will stand: but in trying to ascertain it I find that the woollen manufacturers employ the *Mule* to a very great extent in their preparations for spinning on the jenny; and it is now also equally employed for all cotton that is spun on jennies, and it has greatly improved the jenny spinning; indeed it is the only improvement it ever had:—4,000,000 Mule spindles."

ILLUSTRATION (C).

Copy of the Agreement on which the Mule was surrendered.

"We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, have agreed to give, and do hereby promise to pay, unto Samuel Crompton, at the Hall in the Wood, near Bolton, the several sums opposite to our names, as a reward for his improvement in spinning. Several of the principal tradesmen in Manchester, Bolton, &c., having seen his new machine, approve of it, and are of opinion that it would be of the greatest public utility to make it generally known; to which end a contribution is desired from every well-wisher of trade."

Upon the credence of this flimsy and *one-sided* contract, without *signature*, without *date*, without any stipu-

ILLUSTRATION (G).

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Number of Mules, Water Frames, and Spinning Jennies, 1811, contained in upwards of 650 Cotton Factories, situated within Sixty Miles of Bolton.

	Mule Spindles.	Water Frame Spindles.	Jenny Spindles.
Bolton and vicinity	333,720	18,052	882
Manchester and do.	1,063,248	27,504	12,360
Stockport and do.	352,396	23,748	88,712
Oldham, Lees, &c.	196,316		
Preston, &c.	297,692	9,840	
Rochdale, &c.	46,172	13,040	
Bury and Bury River.	75,096	18,784	
Glossop, &c. (Derbyshire)....	147,032	7,460	
Ashton and Staley Bridge.	312,468		
Warrington, &c.	50,000		
New Mills (Derbyshire)	84,264	15,920	8,440
Heywood, &c.	11,716	20,270	
Wigan, &c.	22,856	25,312	4,036
Todmorden, &c. (Yorkshire)...	69,014	11,984	
Macclesfield (Cheshire)	141,184	28,316	
Halifax, &c. (Yorkshire)	122,660	69,866	6,300
Sundry lone Places	43,244	29,420	3,800
Scotland (1808)	800,000		
Total Spindles	4,209,570	310,516	155,880

This estimate was made by Mr. Crompton, and mostly from personal research, and may therefore be relied upon as not being exaggerated. By this it appears that the number of *Mule*-spindles was as *thirteen to one*, compared with water-frame spindles; and *twenty-five to one* as compared with the jenny. At this period, without including Ireland, there were probably *six millions of Mule*-spindles at work. The *Mules* used in woollen and silk manufacture not included.

At this period the reported price of a Mule factory, filled with machinery, a steam-engine included, was estimated at two pounds per spindle. Hence the probability

The New Lanark Company	William Stirling and Sons
James and John M'Hewham	Todd, Shorbridge and Co.
Henry Houldsworth	William and John Orr
James Dunlop	For the Linwood Company,
R. Thompson and Sons	Andrew Brown."

ILLUSTRATION (E).

The utility of the Mule in the Woollen manufacture.

Sowerby Bridge, March 13, 1812.

Mr. George Crompton.

Halifax.

Sir,—Mr. Stephenson's letter of the 10th instant I have this day received, informing me of Mr. Crompton's being in London on business in which I hope he will succeed.

Mules are used in several parts of Yorkshire and in Lancashire for spinning woollen yarn, and to good advantage; and when there is a revival of trade they will be generally adopted, as they greatly facilitate the woollen manufacture. &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JONATHAN BOTTOMLEY.

Mr. George Crompton, Bolton.

ILLUSTRATION (F).

List of the Committee appointed on Mr. Crompton's Petition, 1812.

Lord Stanley, M.P.	P. Patten, Esq. M.P.
Colonel Stanley, M.P.	Will. Wilberforce, Esq. M.P.
J. Blackburne, Esq. M.P.	Lord Milton, M.P.
Sir Robert Peel, Bart. M.P.	D. Davenport, Esq. M.P.
Saml. Horrocks, Esq. M.P.	Wilbraham Bootle, Esq. M.P.
Richard Sharp, Esq. M.P.	Gen. Gascoigne, M.P.
A. Houston, Esq. M.P.	Sir James Graham, M.P.
D. Giddy, Esq. M.P.	Gen. Tarleton, M.P.
Rt. Hon. Spencer Perceval	Lord A. Hamilton, M.P.
George Rose, Esq. M.P.	A. Spir, Esq. M.P.
J. Hodson, Esq. M.P.	

E

“P.S. Any argument raised on the ground of its being a long time ago, if it says anything, it is in favour, as it gives proof of its value. We have a saying that there are only two bad paymasters in the world : one is he that pays before he receives value ; the other is he that never pays for value received.”

ILLUSTRATION (I).

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Crompton to the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval, 8th April, 1812.

“I was literally besieged in my house (in 1779) and hunted when abroad, as if some strange being had appeared on earth ; and I hesitate not to say, that if I had given 50,000*l.* for the full enjoyment of what I alone had laboured for, and which in justice I had a right to, I believe, long ago, I should have made it more than ten times that sum for myself and family ; and am certain that my countrymen have made it more than five hundred times that sum in value to the national interest : I will venture to say one thousand times that sum within the last thirty years.

“I believe it to be a duty I owe to my country, my family and myself to make this application ; and I trust there is no need to say much to a man of your discernment. You can appeal to the national returns of the cotton trade for the last thirty years ; you can compare the cotton with the linen trade, and say which has been most encouraged by government with bounties and premiums. And as I have a large family, for whose sake I appeal to you and my country for the service rendered by me in laying the foundation from whence has been raised the cotton trade of this country, to an extent and perfection that is envied by the whole world, and even to astonish government itself, I only request that you and this nation assembled in Parliament, will put yourselves in my situation, and judge of my case as if it were your

own, and then perhaps you will not find any difficulty in saying, if the sinking fund were to be suspended for a few days in your favour, could it exceed the value this machine has been to this country? It is not a speculative point that is to be tried, for it has stood thirty years' proof."

ILLUSTRATION (K).

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Crompton to John Blackburne, Esq., M.P. London, 27th April, 1812.

"Hitherto there has not been a word said how much this machine has been used in Ireland, which I understand is very considerable; nor of its great utility in the WOOLLEN TRADE of this country, or that it is employed to spin the waste of the silk manufacture.

"I will only add, that whatever temptations I have ever had held out to me by FOREIGN POWERS, I never could bring myself to think so ill of this country, with all its faults, as to prefer any other offered to me in exchange; though I must confess it is very trying when one has laboured for so long a time, and at all the risk in one's power, to be beset the moment you arrive at the harbour of rest and profit, and have the prize wrested from you by a set of *unprincipled beings*, who had no regard for anything but their own interest; and thus to have all one's hopes disappointed, and that at a time too when you were exhausted by labouring to give birth to the object of your pursuit, which certainly has been the case with me."

ILLUSTRATION (L).

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Crompton to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, 20th May, 1812.

"Might I have my wish, it would be that if the government did anything, it should be done with a cheerful and

liberal mind, so that it do not even appear as if it was extorted. At any rate, as far as the duty relates to myself, that is fully completed ; and in regard to my family, that depends wholly on the conclusion of Parliament, when the case comes fully before them to be considered. I do not call myself a beggar in the case, nor my family brought up as such ; but friends to their country, and who have always, to the utmost of our limited power, done what we could ; and if that was increased greatly, I do not see what risk there would be in giving the means of more extensive future exertions, and of thereby endeavouring to do every thing in our power to uphold that constitution and country which, with all its faults, I never could bring myself to think of exchanging for any other that has been offered to me, with all the glittering prospects held forth to tempt me to accept them. I will only add, that as soon as you can conveniently come to a conclusion, and with as little parade and noise as possible, the more I shall feel thankful."

ILLUSTRATION (M).

Extract. Mr. Crompton to A. Houston, Esq. M.P.

"The only difficulty I now feel is, that my country do honour to themselves ; me they cannot dishonour. I hereby authorize you to say so, if you think proper, to any of your friends. There will be no difficulty in getting rid of my importunity. I have been here five months waiting for a conclusion, and the moment that is obtained I shall feel very happy to return to my family, and usual employ. I came to give them (the Parliament) an opportunity of showing what kind of liberality this country had in store for me.

"I leave the case to the consideration of Parliament, and trust they will pause a few moments, and consider the risk there is of *dishonouring* the wisdom of Parliament for the past, by their decision in the present case. The

risk is so great, I am almost ready to wish *I had not brought it forward*; but as that cannot be, it must take its course."

This extract shows how solicitous he was to avoid being degraded by a reward inferior in amount to what had been paid in the case of Doctor Cartwright's machine, which, however meritorious as a curious piece of mechanism, has done much to distress the hand-loom weavers, and to deprive apprentices and worn-out weavers of their most valuable work, acting as an *increase* of hands to the extent to which it is applied; and there is scarcely a doubt, if the catastrophe had not taken place which so suddenly removed Mr. Perceval, but Mr. Crompton would have contented himself with the Report of the Committee in his favour, and declined accepting the five thousand pounds.

In a copy of a letter, dated 16th June, 1812, addressed to David Giddy, Esq. M.P., Mr. Crompton treats of the same subject, and says, alluding to the paucity of the encouragement held out by government to the cotton-trade:

"I know of no other precedent than Dr. Cartwright's, who, three years ago, received ten thousand pounds from government. Sir Robert Peel told Mr. Perceval that Doctor Cartwright's Power-Loom had never been of one shilling benefit to the country; whereas the case I had brought forward had been of more than twenty millions sterling in its favour. You see that all the benefit I have ever had has been a mere mockery. *I cannot bear the idea of accepting of, or its being repeated, a third time*; and ask you, if you could feel yourself justified in accepting a sum in no degree equal to its value? I certainly shall feel ever thankful for the kind support I have had in bringing the case thus far, and yet I feel some degree of fear of the case being prejudged in this way, *For how little can we get rid of this man?*—I will tell you how: by every one of you judging as if it was his own case, as it is now made out; and those of you that do know, informing

those that do not ; and not suffer it to be smuggled in the conclusion, as if it was of no consequence whether the case be good or bad, but get rid of it any way they can. *Be assured, Sir, there will be no difficulty in getting rid of me. I am only waiting the conclusion of Parliament,* and the moment it is ascertained I shall withdraw. The only anxiety I now feel is, that a conclusion may be had, *and that Parliament do not dishonour themselves ; me they cannot dishonour.* All the risk is with them. I conceive it to be the greatest honour I can confer on them, to afford them an opportunity of doing me and themselves, justice. I am certain my friends and family would be ashamed of me, were I to consider myself come here a begging, or, on the contrary, *demanding*, but requesting the case might have a fair and candid hearing, and be dealt with according to its merits."

In a letter, dated about this time, to John Blackburne, Esq., M.P. for Lancashire, Mr. Crompton stated :

"Thinking, as I do, it can be of no use my accompanying you to the Chancellor of the Exchequer (the Right Honourable Nicholas Vansittart), I decline it : I cannot advocate my own case. Were it another's, I could say something ; were it to attempt it in my own case, it would shut my mouth. I wish my claims to stand or fall by their own merit. You will all bear witness for me that I never made any specific demand. I beg leave further to say, that soon after I met Sir Robert Peel here, he tried every possible way if I had any specific point or sum in view. My reply was, 'I think it premature to talk of an effect before we have made out a case.' He said, 'Would the sum Doctor Cartwright had, satisfy you ?' I said, 'Sir Robert, this is working at the wrong end ; I entertain no doubt of the Parliament of Great Britain acting according to their own dignified character, and not do a mean or little thing if the case was fairly brought before them ; and that to say anything about a specific sum would be prejudicing the question.'

"I am now, for once, unbosoming myself to you and my confidential friends, which I am confident I can do with safety; and I ask you, if they are disposed to give some paltry sum, just to get rid of me with a mere mockery of reward, *should I be justified in accepting it?*"

"I ask of you, whether there *ever* was a claim of such importance brought before Parliament as this; at least in a commercial point of view: not a speculation that remained to be proved, but its value established beyond contradiction. I will venture to say, there are very few families that have not been, and now are, benefitted by this machine; nay, I will assert that nine-tenths of the House of Commons wear cloth at a reduced price of forty to fifty per cent. that is spun on these machines, and of a beauty which the world cannot equal. After all, I will be directed by you, however strongly I may feel desirous not to be deceived or mocked for the *third time*; and feel no difficulty in saying, that when I gave the machine up to the country it was worth FIFTY THOUSAND POUNDS."

In a letter addressed to Robert Peel, Esq. M.P., the present Secretary for the Home Department, dated 21st June, only three days before the grant of 5,000*l.* was made, Mr. Crompton wrote:

"If Sir Robert has left any direction with you or any one else to direct themselves by, it is more than I know; but am confident, if he was here, there would nothing be wanting that was in his power to do, to secure and enforce it when it comes before the House. Sir Robert told Mr. Perceval, when he, Lord Stanley, Mr. Blackburne, Mr. Horrocks, and Mr. A. Houston and myself waited upon him at his office, that the remuneration of ten thousand pounds which Doctor Cartwright had received three years since for his machine in the weaving line, never was of one shilling value to the country, and never would; *and that if he (Sir Robert) had been on the Committee, he never would have consented to grant him a shilling.* Mr. Perceval said: 'I wish you had been on

the Committee then.' Sir Robert replied : '*The Doctor took good care I should not;*' and he added : 'Samuel Crompton's machine has been of more than TWENTY MILLIONS sterling value to the nation.'"

With this important extract these Illustrations are closed. By what cause it happened that a reward so very disproportionate to the magnitude of the benefits which the nation had received was awarded is, at the present day, an object of much less importance than the obtainment of redress.

The preceding facts clearly prove that the *Mule* spinning machine, of all the mechanical inventions of the last reign, was the most generally useful and beneficial to the MANUFACTURES, COMMERCE, and REVENUE of Great Britain! In the midst of perplexing cares its inventor, in 1807, applied, as it is proved by Illustration A, to the then President of the Royal Society, to convey to GEORGE the THIRD an artless and unstudied recital of grievances. If the letter had ever come to the knowledge of that Monarch, there is every reason to conclude, Mr. Crompton would have found that PROTECTION of which he stood so much in need. It is, however, yet in the power of the Ministers of the Crown to confer on the FIRST PARLIAMENT of GEORGE the FOURTH the credit of rendering that justice to SAMUEL CROMPTON, which various untoward circumstances have so long retarded.



